

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Scribner House

AND/OR COMMON

Home of Piankeshaw D.A.R. Chapter

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

106 East Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New Albany

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Floyd

CODE

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Piankeshaw Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

STREET & NUMBER C/O Mrs. J.C. Leist, Ex-Chapter Regent

1577 Meadow Lane

CITY, TOWN

New Albany

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City-County Building

STREET & NUMBER

First and Spring Streets

CITY, TOWN

New Albany

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources Div. of Museums & Memorials

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Scribner House is a simple two and a half story structure located on the southeast corner of Main and State Streets in New Albany, Indiana. The simple architectural features suggest a federal style cottage.

Begun in 1813 and finished in 1814, the structure is a rectangular block with one flush gable chimney on the east side. A field stone foundation supports load-bearing brick walls covered with clapboard siding. The bricks and clapboards were made on the site of local materials.

On the Main Street side, the house is two and a half story structure with a medium gable roof. Plain brackets support a gutter. Both stories have three bays, with the entry off set to the west. Windows have shutters and six lights over six lights. The windows, many of the window lights, doors, doorknobs, and locks are original. A decorated entablature caps an otherwise plain moulding surrounding the door.

Bays occur in the side and back elevations in an irregular pattern. The lot slopes south toward the river so that the back elevation has three and a half stories. Two veranda porches rise above the basement entry.

Originally the interior had a kitchen and storage room in the basement, two parlors and a hall on the first floor, three bedrooms and a hall on the second floor, and an attic bedroom on the third level. The wide board ash floors, stairs, walnut newel post, hand-rail and spindles are original.

After the severe 1937 flood, extensive cleaning and repair was necessary, including re-finishing the ash floors on the first floor. It was believed that mud had damaged the hand-hewd beams in the basement-kitchen area; consequently the ceiling was lowered and the beams were plastered over. The original brick kitchen floor was covered with concrete, and a drain was installed. Sometime in the twentieth century a gas furnace was installed in the basement storage room. The basement porch was completely enclosed in the 1960's and converted into a small kitchen area. Aluminum storm doors have added to the front and back exterior entrances.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION	
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE	
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE	
—1600-1699	—ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
—1700-1799	—ART	XENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER	
X1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION	
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		—INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1814

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joel, Abner, Nathaniel Scribner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Scribner House is important as the oldest house and as the residence of the founding family of New Albany, Indiana. The Scribner family was instrumental in establishing New Albany and Floyd County as enclaves in the wilderness in the early 1800's.

Originally from New York, Joel Scribner moved west with his wife Mary and brothers Nathaniel and Abner in 1811. The Scribners hoped to share in the riches that the West promised and planned to settle in Cincinnati, but the undeveloped territory further west lured them down river. During December, 1812, and January, 1813, the three brothers explored the southern Indiana territory; and upon reaching the Falls of the Ohio across from Louisville, Abner decided that they had found an ideal location for mills. Abner was to spend most of his adult life building and operating mills.

Convinced that they had found a perfect town site, the brothers purchased over 800 acres from Colonel John Paul of Madison, Indiana. They advertised the town lots extensively in the East in 1813, believing that New Albany would one day be the largest interior city on the continent.

In 1813 Joel Scribner, his family, and two brothers moved to the New Albany town site and constructed a double log cabin. In the fall of 1813 they began building the Scribner House, which was the first permanent residence. Joel's family occupied the structure. Later, Nathaniel Scribner built a house to the rear of his brother's; this structure was demolished about 1955.

The Scribners continued to take an active interest in the town's settlement after the initial sale of town lots. They donated sixty lots and left a \$5,000 fund for schools. The first meetings of the First Presbyterian Church were conducted at the Scribner house, and the family made substantial donations to the church. Active in the efforts to create Floyd County, Nathaniel Scribner died in December, 1818, while returning from the state legislature at Corydon, where he had successfully lobbied for creation of the new county. The Scribners donated land for a county courthouse to ensure that New Albany would be the new county seat. Joel Scribner served town and county in a number of capacities, including postmaster, county clerk, and auditor.

Abner died in 1827 after having moved on to build mills in other parts of the Midwest; Joel died in 1823. The Scribner House passed to Dr. William A. Scribner, who was Joel's son. As a doctor, William was a prominent member of the community and served as city clerk and a school trustee. After his death in 1868, the house passed to his daughter, Hattie Scribner, who sold it in 1917 to the Piankeshaw Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Piankeshaw Chapter has preserved the Scribner House and many of its original furnish-

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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The Scribner House is an unusual example of a well-preserved Indiana house from the early nineteenth century which is important as a memorial to the founding family of New Albany and Floyd County, Indiana.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Amster, Betty Lou - New Albany on the Ohio: Historical Review, 1813-1963. New Albany: Sesquicentennial Committee, 1963.
Centennial Committee: Greater New Albany Souvenir History, 1813-1913. N.P.:George L. Russell, 1913.
History of the Ohio Falls Cities and their Counties. 2 vols., Cleveland: L.A. Williams & Company, 1882.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

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6	0	2	9	7	0
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4	2	3	7	7	1	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Hazel Jackson Platt Leist (Mrs. J.C.), Ex-Chapter Regent
Elizabeth Sieboldt Payne (Mrs. M.A.), Ex-Chapter Regent

ORGANIZATION Piankeshaw Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution DATE April 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER (Leist) 1577 Meadow Lane TELEPHONE
(Payne) 2512 Glenwood Court

CITY OR TOWN New Albany STATE Indiana 47150

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

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Bibliography (Con't)

Payne, Mrs. M. Arthur, comp. "Sketches of New Albany, Indiana, and Vicinity, 1813-1893, n.p.: Piankeshaw Chapter of the D.A.R., 1959.

Scribner, Mary Helen. "The Old House Speaks." n.p. Piankeshaw Chapter of the D.A.R., 1932.